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*Department of State*

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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ARA/AND/P: RWATKINS:
ARA/RPP: PLASBURY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063746

E.O.: GDS (3/10/88) TAYLOR, CLYDE D.
TAGS: SNAR, PE
SUBJECT: STATUS OF PROPOSED NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION

1. DEPARTMENT WELCOMES RECENT EMBASSY REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AID AND INM UPPER HUALLAGA PROJECTS. WE ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING THIS PROMISING EFFORT UNDER WAY AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE IMPORTANCE PROPOSED GOP NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION WILL HAVE ON COCA ERADICATION.

2. WE APPRECIATE THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO REPLACE DECREES DATING FROM PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS WITH PARLIAMENTARY LAWS. CURRENT REGULATIONS HAVE THE ADVANTAGE, FROM A NARCOTICS CONTROL STANDPOINT, OF MAKING ALL COCA CULTIVATION IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA ILLEGAL AND THUS SUBJECT TO ERADICATION UNDER THE JOINT CONTROL PROJECT. IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS SET BACK, IF (AS RECENTLY OCCURRED IN BOLIVIA) GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO TIGHTEN COCA LICENSING REGULATIONS HAD THE SIDE EFFECT OF "LEGITIMIZING" CULTIVATION IN AREAS LIKE THE HUALLAGA.

3. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THE EMBASSY'S CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION. WE ALSO REQUEST THAT THE TOPIC BE COVERED IN PERIODIC SPOT REPORTING AND AS A REGULAR ITEM IN NAU'S MONTHLY REPORTING CABLE. HAIG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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